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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

¶1. SUMMARY: Nepal's major English daily The Kathmandu Post (circulation: 30,000) published an OP-ED on December 28 titled "Double-crossed in Copenhagen" that said "big Asian brothers" China and India betrayed poor and vulnerable countries like Nepal to shake hands with the United States. The article, written by a Nepali journalist working for the BBC in London, said that in the name of climate change, the summit was a venue for reshaping global politics. It argued that since no specific carbon reduction target was made, temperatures will rise mainly because of the United States and emerging economies like China and India, which will mean more climate change-induced calamities for developing countries.

EXCERPTS:

¶2. "Christmas and year-end holidays have not kept the world's major global players from defending themselves for what they did to fail the climate summit in Copenhagen last week. A good 10 days since the big bang ended in a whimper, they are still engaged in a blame game. U.S. President Barack Obama has come out with his explanation on how he had to 'rescue the summit'."

¶3. "It [the summit] rather became a venue for striking backroom deals and reshaping global politics, all in the name of climate. Big brothers from almost all the regions ganged up as they did not want a deal to happen mainly on economic and, to some extent, strategic grounds. Unsurprisingly, the U.S. led the gang."

¶4. "No wonder then that the Americans were for a deal that would be outside Kyoto and the UN climate regime. But how come China and India, that so much advocated both the Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, shook hands with the U.S.?"

¶5. "No doubt the developed countries other than the U.S. too had their vested interests like pushing a market mechanism in the fight against climate change and getting the developing world to make emission cuts while securing their own carbon spaces in the atmosphere. But at least, they had specific targets - even that would have been outside the Kyoto regime. The U.S. did not want that, and so too, it later emerged, the BASIC countries. Left out in the cold are the poor and most vulnerable countries like Nepal thanks to the double-cross by their G77 de

facto leaders China and India."

¶6. "Now that there is no specific carbon reduction target, temperatures will rise mainly because of the U.S. and emerging economies like China and India; and that will mean even more climate change-induced calamities. Worse yet, the accord has not drawn any mechanism to channel climate funds which will make adapting to the inevitable climate change impacts almost impossible. So much for the solidarity between the developing countries led by the two big Asian brothers."

BERRY